

the conference report includes \$20 million for Parkinson's research in the Army's Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment Research Program, NETRP. This critical program was established over 10 years ago to investigate the causes, diagnosis, and treatments of Parkinson's disease to improve military readiness. American troops are routinely exposed to external stressors and toxins such as head injury, pesticides and herbicides, and scientists believe these exposures increase the risk of developing neurodegenerative conditions, particularly Parkinson's disease, that negatively impact the readiness of American military forces. Understanding how exposures occur and the incidence of disease afterwards will allow the Department of Defense to minimize the risk of future exposures, better protect military personnel, and improve military readiness.

The military is not the only recipient of NETRP's benefits. Any research breakthroughs in prevention, detection, and treatment of neurodegenerative conditions are immediately applicable to civilians—particularly the more than 1 million Americans with Parkinson's disease, including nearly 79,000 veterans and 60,000 newly diagnosed Americans each year.

The Defense Appropriations conference report also includes a continuing resolution to fund the Federal Government for another month at fiscal year 2007 spending levels, and adds additional funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, grants a temporary extension of the children's health, S-CHIP, program, and provides \$500 million to bolster funding for federal firefighting programs following the California wildfires.

I remain concerned about rising costs of weapons systems that have yet to be fully funded, and by budget projections that tell us that we'll need to increase defense budgets annually simply to sustain the current force structure and weapons programs. Because operations and maintenance and personnel costs—as well as training and recruiting costs—are also rising, we will need to do a better job balancing spending on current and future military priorities, and consider whether to fully fund all these weapons systems.

Mr. Chairman, this is not a perfect bill. It does not solve or attempt to solve some of these looming budget problems. But overall, the bill deserves to pass and I urge its approval.

THE WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the White Ribbon Campaign and call on men everywhere to help stop violence against women.

The White Ribbon Campaign is the largest effort in the world organized by men and aimed at men to say that all forms of violence against women must stop now.

I applaud this grassroots effort of men from all walks of life working together to contribute to this important goal.

One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her life, and an estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by a partner each year.

I am proud that my home State of Nebraska has long been concerned for women living in fear of violence, and in 1976 was the first State to abolish the marital rape exemption.

We owe our thanks for the important work the men of the White Ribbon Campaign are doing as they work toward the goal of stopping violence against women.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008—CONFERENCE REPORT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3222) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this measure, which will give our men and women in uniform the resources they need to help protect our Nation and its people.

Taking care of our military families is a vital responsibility, and this bill meets that obligation. It provides a 3.5 percent pay raise for all military personnel, rejects the President's proposed increases in TRICARE co-pays by fully funding the \$1.9 billion TRICARE shortfall without cost to our troops, and allocates \$2.6 billion to provide more counselors, teachers, and child care providers to reinforce the support network serving military families. The bill also provides \$615.7 million for Army facilities to upgrade barracks, improve child care facilities and enhance community services at bases throughout the U.S., Europe and Korea. All of these things will improve the quality of life of our military families, and I appreciate what Chairman MURTHA has done on their behalf.

Providing our deployed troops with the equipment they need is our other vital responsibility. This bill provides \$11.6 billion for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles and for body armor and other protective equipment. Earlier this year, I joined a number of my colleagues in a letter to Defense Secretary Gates urging him to make the acquisition of MRAP vehicles a priority, and I'm pleased he has worked with the Congress to expedite the acquisition of these life-saving vehicles.

Our Guard and Reserve units will also benefit from a \$980 million appropriation in this bill for new equipment. I think just about all of us in this House have Guard and Reserve units in our districts that have been short of key equipment, a situation that not only has compromised the deployability of those units overseas but has also made it harder for Guard units to provide disaster support to communities in the wake of floods, hurricanes, and other natural disasters. I'm glad these equipment shortages are being addressed in this bill, and I hope we'll continue working this problem until all Guard and Reserve units have their full allocation of needed equipment.

Finally, to help those who return from war wounded, this bill provides \$70 million for the Dignified Treatment of Wounded Warriors Act (H.R. 1538), which passed the Congress in

July 2007. That legislation mandated improvements in the care of wounded service members and in the services provided to them, including improving the system of case managers for wounded service members, creating a system of patient advocates, and the creation of a formal transition process from the Armed Forces to the VA for service members who are being retired or separated for health reasons. I'm pleased we're finally funding this important bill, which was passed in the wake of the Walter Reed Medical Center scandal in January. However, I view this as just the first step in properly funding these programs, and I hope we can do even more in next year's budget.

Mr. Chairman, this bill will help us give our men and women in uniform and their families the support and resources they need, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for it.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3043, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this conference report, which keeps our commitments to our veterans and invests in critical domestic priorities to strengthen our Nation. By putting the needs of the American people first, we are moving in a new direction to make overdue investments in education, health care, and jobs. We're doing this in a bipartisan way: both pieces of the bill originally passed the House with strong bipartisan support.

I would like to thank Chairman OBEY again for working with Representative WELDON to secure an important provision that Representative WELDON put forward in today's LHHS conference report that will ban the use of funds from being used to administer a mercury-containing flu vaccine to children under the age of three. This provision implements the policy advocated by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the U.S. Public Health Service, and vaccine manufacturers. Providing our children with safe vaccines is long overdue.

In addition to making vaccines safer, helping families pay for college, funding job training and providing for groundbreaking medical research, this bill helps the heroes of 9/11 who have become sick because of their work at Ground Zero. These are police officers, fire fighters, cleanup workers and others who risked their lives in the hours after the planes hit and risked their health in the weeks and months that followed, laboring in the toxic dust and fumes. For the first time, funding for 9/11 health needs is being included in regular spending. The \$52.5 million included in the conference report will go a long way in providing medical monitoring and treatment for everyone exposed to the toxins of Ground Zero.

I have to emphasize again the "everyone." I have always said that it shouldn't matter

what hat you were wearing after 9/11, because everyone was exposed to the same toxins. Provisions in the bill recognize that reality; for the first time residents, area workers and school children who were exposed to the deadly toxins will move toward having the same high quality care that responders have. We've been fighting for residents for a long time, and this is a giant first step in taking care of them. I want to sincerely thank Chairman OBEY and his outstanding subcommittee staff for their hard work.

It is critical that the Federal Government step up to the plate and fulfill its responsibility to all the victims of the attacks of September 11. New Yorkers know it, people from everywhere else in the Nation know it, and this spending measure shows that Congress knows it, as well. The President should sign this bill to keep our commitment to our veterans and invest in crucial domestic priorities, so that we can show all Americans we're serious about putting the people's priorities first and ensuring that the heroes and heroines of 9/11 get the care they need and deserve. It is the least we can do as a grateful Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLD HOMESTEAD SUBDIVISION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the historic Old Homestead Subdivision at Eleven Mile and Drake Roads in Farmington Hills, Michigan as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary on November 10, 2007.

The Old Homestead Subdivision takes its name from the original 240-acre tract taken out in 1824 by Mr. Edward Steele. The deed, which was signed by President John Quincy Adams, was granted to the first "homesteader," who was required to clear the wilderness and establish a home while paying \$1.25 an acre. It was on this land that Mr. Steele built a home, a farm, and a mill for his family.

It was Edward Steele's grandson, Frank Steele, who would leave the largest mark on this community. After a fire destroyed his grandfather's farmhouse, Frank and his wife, the former Bertha Crosby, the daughter of the first soldier to enlist in the Civil War from Michigan, commissioned a stone house to be built on Eleven Mile Road. They were both active members of the community, where Frank served on the Township Board and as a Justice of the Peace, while Bertha was active in all the local women's organizations. The house stayed within the Steele family until 1989 when it was made part of the Farmington Hills Historic District by Frank's nephew, Robert Bohme.

Throughout the years, the farm land originally purchased by Edward Steele has been sold and developed into country homes for folks seeking solace from the busy city life of Detroit. Stores, cider mills, and inns began to dot the pastoral landscape, bringing commerce to the community. Road development allowed more families to settle into suburban life in Farmington Hills, and like many subdivisions that formed after World War II, the

homestead was established on November 10, 1957.

Even with all of the new construction and development that came over the years, the Old Homestead kept hold of the unique features that made it what it is. The Old Homestead remains home to historic Elliot Sprague House, which was built in 1880, and the Erie Prince Sawmill, which now is a cider mill. These mainstays keep the Old Homestead as the quaint neighborhood it was when formed.

Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to the rich history of the Old Homestead Subdivision. Its contribution to the character of the city of Farmington Hills is beyond measure, and I congratulate the residents on the 50th anniversary of its founding.

HOUSTON CRIME STOPPERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the safety and security of American communities is a vital ingredient in the preservation of liberties we as a nation hold dear. Nonetheless, individuals occasionally attempt to upset our sense of wellbeing. Holding these criminals accountable for their actions is thus of the utmost importance. Since 1981, Houston Crime Stoppers has tirelessly worked towards keeping our neighborhoods protected through helping law enforcement solve numerous cases.

Imported, from a similar program in Albuquerque, New Mexico, by members of the Exchange Club of Houston, the organization quickly grew into a world leader, assisting to solve felony offences. The success achieved by this group is made possible through the ease of reporting information to the Tip Line. As a result of assigning callers with code numbers, anonymity is easily maintained, while encouraging informants to continue to contact Crime Stoppers. If the information provided leads to an arrest, a financial reward is then given to the appropriate citizens. From 1981 to 2006 over 6.5 million dollars have been paid in cash rewards, a testament towards the large response to Crime Stoppers throughout the Houston community.

Prevention is also a key aspect of Houston Crime Stoppers mission. Serving over 200 area middle and high schools, the Safe School Program works to educate students and administrators about how to recognize dangers. Their focus in particular concerns gang activity, terrorist threats, and possession of dangerous weapons. Students can report serious crimes to officers, through the anonymous tip line before they escalate into perilous situations. These informed campuses are better protected as a result, illustrated alone by the 52 gun related arrests in just the past decade.

A similar initiative sponsored by Crime Stoppers is the Safe Apartment Program. Like preventative programs in area schools, the identifying crime is a major concentration. Complex managers and staff are taught how to recognize and report criminal activity. Residents also can inform officers of offenders in their community, through the Tip Line. This has proven to effectively reduce crime, making the affected neighborhoods increasingly safer.

Operating in partnership with citizens, media, law enforcement, and the criminal jus-

tice system, Houston Crime Stoppers is now the number one community based organization dedicated to deciphering and preventing serious crime. Since their 1981 inception, 26,593 cases have been closed as a result of these dedicated citizens. Of these many servings of justice, they solved 817 homicides, 832 murders, and apprehended 8917 felony fugitives. Still, these statistics make up only a portion of the many other transgressions resolved as a result of Houston Crime Stoppers.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING GEORGE BARRETT'S 50 YEARS IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor George E. Barrett for his 50 years of service in Nashville's legal profession. A long-time champion of civil rights, George has gained a reputation as one of Tennessee's foremost judicial consciences.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Nashville was the backdrop for many powerful demonstrations during the Civil Rights Movement, including the famous lunch counter sit-ins. In the midst of that movement, George Barrett earned his law degree blocks away at Vanderbilt University and decided to practice law right there in the city where he grew up.

George made a name for himself as a defender of the underdog. His work on Tennessee's Geier case is a remarkable example of a civil rights issue that George tenaciously took on and saw through its duration of more than three decades.

George has been a friend for many years, and I congratulate him on his 50 years as a fearless attorney. As one of the partners at his law firm wisely suggested, we doubt he will ever actually retire. I wish George many more years of success and happiness in his career and in his personal life.

IN RECOGNITION OF NAVSYS CORPORATION, 2007 TIBBETTS AWARD WINNER FOR THE TALON NAMATH PROGRAM

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate NAVSYS Corporation for receiving the 2007 Tibbetts Award given in recognition of the successful Talon NAMATH Program. The Tibbetts Award, named for Roland Tibbetts, honors organizations, individuals, and small businesses who demonstrate achievement in the area of Small Business Innovation Research.

Located in my hometown of Colorado Springs, NAVSYS Corporation was founded in 1986 by Dr. Allison Brown. Since its inception, this company has sought to promote the use of Global Positioning System in a variety of applications, both commercial and military. The Talon NAMATH Program for which